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BARNARD CASTLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1958.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

J. G. PALEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health,
Assistant School Medical Officer.

October, 1959.

Council Offices,
Woodleigh,
Barnard Castle.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1958.

There was a small increase of 10 in the Registrar General's mid-year estimate of the population of the Urban District.

There was a fall in the number of deaths from all causes, the number being 102 compared with 113 in the previous year and 88 in 1956. I am pleased to report a fall in the number of deaths of infants aged under one year, the number being only 5 compared with 8 in 1957.

The incidence of infectious diseases continued to be low and there were no cases of diphtheria or poliomyelitis during the year.

Local Industries - These are mainly concerned with agriculture, but the factory operated by Messrs. Glaxo Laboratories Limited, in Harmire Road, for the production of Penicillin, now affords employment for a large number of persons resident in the Urban and Rural Districts. The total number of persons employed at this factory at the end of the year was approximately 600 persons.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply -

(a) Town's Supply

Due to the heavy rainfall during the summer months, a good yield from the springs was maintained throughout the year. Difficulty arose from time to time in maintaining pressure in the higher areas of the town which is supplied with water from the Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board.

This trouble has been recently rectified by the Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board granting the Urban District Council an additional new 6" diameter metered connection between the mains.

36 samples of water were taken from the water supply system serving the town for bacteriological examination.

Five samples taken from taps served by water purchased by the Council from the Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board were in Class I.

Thirty one samples taken at various points on the Council's water supply system were examined and found to fall into the following Classes:

8 in Class I
4 in Class II
3 in Class III
16 in Class IV

Five samples taken from taps in the town before the end of April proved satisfactory, the remaining eight samples taken from taps in the town had the following results on examination:-

2 in Class I
3 in Class III
3 in Class IV

Four samples taken at Fountain Head Spring proved satisfactory.

Of ten samples taken from Stoney Keld Spring and four from the open Reservoir, only one was not in Class IV.

(b) Regrouping of Water Undertakings.

In July the Ministry of Housing and Local Government issued a circular reminding Local Authorities of the urgency in bringing discussions to a head in regard to the regrouping of water undertakings. The original circular issued in September 1956 explained the underlying aims of the Government to "promote the most effective use of the water resources of the country and to provide a reliable service supplying at an economic cost the quantity and quality of water that consumers needed".

This Council is in agreement with the Ministry's circular, and at a recent meeting with the Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board, when the Board granted the additional 6" connection between the mains, the Council's representatives expressed their willingness to negotiate with a view to amalgamation of the water undertakings.

The Council are now expecting a further communication from the Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board on this matter.

Refuse Tip.

The tipping face of the tip is extending in a westerly direction, and when a small area, still to be filled, is completed, the tip face will be removed a considerable distance further from the highway.

Further areas where tipping has been completed have been covered with a layer of soil, reseeded and brought back into grazing land. Fencing and netting fences have been erected to keep the tip in a tidy condition and prevent the escape of paper.

Land to the west of the tipping face not yet required for tipping purposes is let annually for grazing.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

New soil and surface water sewers have been laid in the Bridgegate and Thorngate Wynd area for the redevelopment of this district. As soon as the few remaining houses in Bridgegate are unoccupied, it will be possible to remove the old exposed sewer which is carried on stone pillars along the river side.

It is expected that the scheme being prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers for the enlargement of the Sewage Disposal Works will be completed at an early date.

Provision will be made in the scheme to treat the soil drainage from Startforth Village lying within the Startforth R.D.C. area and from houses in Darlington Road and the new Secondary Modern School in Green Lane lying within the area of the Barnard Castle Rural District.

The scheme will also have to take into account estimated flows from all sources during the next 15 to 20 years, including the increased flow from the town from additional housing development, the completion of the new Grammar Technical School in Prospect Place and waste water from Glaxo Laboratories.

Closet Accommodation - All properties in the Urban District are on the water carriage system with the exception of six which have dry closets. Two properties which had pail privies were demolished during the year under the Council's Slum Clearance programme.

Housing - The statutory return of unfit houses which the Council submitted to the Minister under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 covering the Council's programme for five years from 1st August, 1955 is as follows:-

Estimate of number of houses in the area suitable for action under Sections 25 and 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.	84
No. already in Clearance Areas - 1-8-55	10
No. in Clearance Areas confirmed in August 1957	50
Houses subject to Demolition Orders up to 31-12-58	7
Closing orders made since the report to 31-12-58	9

Three houses 1, 2 & 3, Hepworths Yard were considered for Demolition Orders during the year. The Council accepted the owner's offer to turn these premises into garages and Closing Orders were made on the property.

No. of houses demolished during the year as a result of Slum Clearance schemes or other formal action	26
No. of houses closed but not demolished as a result of formal action	3
No. of houses in Clearance Areas and individual unfit houses, demolition of which temporarily postponed	33
No. of dwellings permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action	Nil

Reconditioning and Repair - No. of houses made fit during year by procedure under Housing and Public Health Acts.

1.	As the result of informal action	8
2.	By owners as a result of statutory notice	1
3.	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

Improvement Grants - Housing Act, 1949.

1.	Applications submitted to Local Authority	2
2.	Applications rejected by Local Authority	Nil
3.	Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme	31

New Dwellings - Three houses, one flat and one maisonette were completed by the North Eastern Housing Association on behalf of the Council.

Three police and ten private dwellings were erected and occupied during the year.

Future Development by the Council - Roads and sewers for the redevelopment of Bridgegate and Thorngate Wynd were completed during the year. Demolition of 15 dwellings in Confirmed Clearance Areas made this progress possible.

Tenders for the construction of 40 dwellings on this site awaited approval by the Minister at the end of the year.

The number of applications on the Council's housing list at the end of the year was 236 compared with a figure of 202 at the end of 1957.

Provision of Houses by Local Authority

	Situation	No. of Bedrooms				
		1	2	3	4	Total
Pre 1939	Dunelm Square Barnard Castle U.D.C.	4	13	6	2	25 *
	Dunelm Square North Eastern Housing Assoc.	10	-	-	-	10
	Dawson Road North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	22	14	8	44
	Total Pre. 1939	14	35	20	10	79
Post 1939	Victoria Road (Key Workers) Barnard Castle U.D.C.	-	-	12	-	12
	Zetland Road North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	20	28	6	54
	Montalbo Road Estate North Eastern Housing Assoc.	8	-	82	12	102
	Zetland Road Extension North Eastern Housing Assoc.	6 Flats	6 Flats 14	13	-	39
	Green Lane Site North Eastern Housing Assoc.	8 Flats	68 8 Flats	80	12	176
	The Bank North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	-	2	1	3
	Thorngate North Eastern Housing Assoc.	1	-	1	-	2
	Total Post 1939	23	116	218	31	388
	GRAND TOTAL	37	151	238	41	467

* Comprises 7 houses and 18 flats.

Confirmed Clearance Areas

5 dwellings in Clearance Areas made before 1939 were still standing on 31st December, 1958. Two, 1 & 2, Gray Lane were occupied as one dwelling by Mr. and Mrs. H. Foster and family.

New Clearance Areas position at 31st December, 1958

No. of Clearance Area	Date area confirmed	No. of Houses in Area	No. of Occupiers	No. of Houses in occupation	No. Demolished	No. Vacant
1	8-8-57	4	-	-	4	-
2	-do-	5	-	-	2	3
3	-do-	16	17	4	9	3
4	-do-	3	-	-	3	-
5	-do-	8	2	1	3	4
6	13-8-59	4	1	1	-	3
7	8-8-59	3	1	1	-	2
9	5-7-59	3	-	-	-	3
10	8-8-59	4	7	4	-	-
TOTALS		50	28	11	21	18

Factories and Workshops - Factories Act, 1937 and 1948

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authorities	16	14	1
Factories not included in above which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	57	10	3
Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	6	16	4
TOTALS	79	40	8

The number of outworkers remains at six. All premises have been inspected and the conditions found were satisfactory.

Tents and Caravans.

Five licences to station individual trailer caravans were issued during the year.

There are two camping grounds in the area.

Field O.S. No. 2 near the Red Well Inn, Harmire Road, has a yearly licence to station 20 trailer caravans at any one time.

The camping ground on Field O.S. No. 58 near Prospect Place is not restricted.

The management and layout of both of these camping grounds are far from ideal.

Rodent Control.

The part-time rodent operative continued the treatment of infested premises. The only major infestation found during the year was at the Council's Refuse Tip.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Ice Cream

No ice cream is manufactured in the town and almost all of the thirty seven retailers sell pre-packed ice cream.

Milk

Six retailers are licenced to sell Pasteurised, Tuberculin Tested and Sterilized Milk.

Slaughterhouses.

4 slaughterhouses were licenced during the year.

1. Slaughterhouse, Birch Road — Mr. F. A. Youngs
2. Slaughterhouse rear of 46, The Bank — Mr. R. C. Jackson
3. Slaughterhouse, Vere Road — Mr. W. H. Foster
4. Slaughterhouse rear of 54, Galgate — Mr. W. Peat.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in the year ending 31st December, 1958.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	763	14	17	2230	1017
Number inspected	762	14	17	2194	1011
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcase condemned	-	-	4	1	-
Part of carcase or organ condemned	133	1	-	51	167
Percentage of number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis & Cysticerci	17.45	7.14	23.53	2.37	16.52
Tuberculosis Only					
Whole carcase condemned	1	-	-	-	-
Part of carcase or organ condemned	1	1	-	-	5
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.26	7.14	-	-	0.49
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted for refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	559
Population (Registrar General's Estimated figure - mid-year 1958)	5,170
Number of inhabited houses	1,631
Rateable Value	£53,099
Sum represented by a penny rate (Financial Year ended 31/3/58)	£179: 6: 8.

I am indebted to the Curator of the Bowes Museum, for permission to include the following table.

Table showing RAINFALL in inches in 1958 compiled from the Bowes Museum

Observation Station:	Bowes Museum
Observer:	Frank Atkinson, Curator.
Height of Gaug above Sea Level:	550 feet

1958	Ins.
January	2.78
February	5.58
March	2.89
April	1.30
May	3.69
June	3.69
July	2.44
August	3.26
September	3.17
October	1.93
November	.66
December	4.67
	36.06

Average
5 years 1954 - 1958 31.95 ins.

36.06	1958
30.67	1957
33.14	1956
22.43	1955
37.45	1954

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

			Total	Male	Female
Live-Births	Legitimate	80	76	35	41
	Illegitimate		4	3	1

Crude Birth-Rate 15.5 per 1,000 home population.

Adjusted Rate 14.7 " " " "

Corresponding Rate for England and Wales 16.4 per 1,000 home population

			Total	Male	Female
Still-Births	Legitimate	1	1	-	1
	Illegitimate		-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 home population 0.19.

Still Birth Rate for previous year 0.19

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths	102	50	52

Crude Death Rate 19.7 per 1,000 home population.

Adjusted Rate 11.0 " " " "

For England & Wales 11.7 " " " "

Deaths of Infants Under One Year.	Male	Female
Total	-	5
Legitimate	-	5
Illegitimate	-	-

Deaths of Infants Under Four Weeks of Age	Male	Female
Total	-	4
Legitimate	-	4
Illegitimate	-	-

Death Rate of Infants Under One Year.

All Infants (per 1,000 live-births) 50.

Causes of Death

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, other	-	1	1
Cancer (all types)	6	7	13
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	5	11
Coronary disease, angina	11	6	17
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
Other heart disease	14	18	32
Other circulatory disease	3	4	7
Pneumonia	1	2	3
Bronchitis	4	3	7
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Congenital malformation	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	3	3
All other accidents	-	1	1
Suicide	1	-	1
	50	52	102

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The incidence of infectious disease was extremely low during the year. No cases of measles were reported (compared with 122 in the previous year) and there were only two cases of whooping cough compared with 19 in the previous year.

In the early part of the year there was a small outbreak of cases of diarrhoea, occurring mainly in the infants department of the C. of E. school. Seventeen of these cases were found to be caused by bacterial dysentery and children suffering from this infection were excluded from school until free from infection.

There were no cases of poliomyelitis or diphtheria during the year.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination Scheme.

At the beginning of the year the following categories were included in the vaccination scheme:-

1. Children born between 1943 and 1946.
2. Children born in the year 1957 who had reached the age of 6 months.
3. Expectant mothers.
4. General Practitioners and their families (i.e. persons normally resident in their household).
5. Ambulance drivers and their families.

In September the offer of vaccination was again extended to include persons aged up to 25 years, that is to say to those born in the years 1933 - 1942. In addition vaccination was also made available to hospital staff who come into contact with patients, to medical students and to the families of those groups.

The Ministry of Health also decided that a third injection should be offered to all categories not less than 7 months after the second.

Arrangements for giving the injections in this area were similar to those made in the previous year, the vaccinations being mainly carried out at Child Welfare Clinics and the injections given either by Child Welfare Medical Officers or by local General Practitioners who were asked to do this work where there were sufficient children available to form a session. Other vaccinations were done at Schools by the Assistant County Medical Officer and regular sessions were held throughout the year at the school clinic in Barnard Castle. On the whole, the response to vaccination has been fairly good, particularly in the younger age groups, though there are still a considerable number of parents who have either refused or not yet made up their minds to have their children vaccinated. It is too early as yet to assess the response in the older age groups but up to the date of writing this report the response throughout the country has been disappointing.

I am indebted to the staff in the Council's general office for their assistance in sending out notices to parents of children and others to attend at vaccination sessions held in Barnard Castle during the year.

Barnard Castle Rural and Urban Districts
Poliomyelitis Vaccination Scheme

Number Vaccinated with Two Injections between 1st January, 1958 and 31st December, 1958.

Children born in the years 1943 to 1958	1,504
Young Persons born in the years 1933 to 1942	-
Expectant Mothers	13
General Practitioners and their families	14
Ambulance Staff and their families	-
Total	1,521

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year.

	No.	Admitted to Hospital	Diagnosis not confirmed	Total cases
Pneumonia	4	-	-	4
Whooping Cough	2	-	-	2
Dysentery	18	1	1	17

Analysis of Total Cases (confirmed) in age groups.

	Under One Year	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Pneumonia	-	-	1	1	1	1	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	2	-	12	2	-	1

Notifiable Diseases (confirmed) during recent years.

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Scarlet Fever	5	4	5	2	1	2	2	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	27	-	117	4	37	105	122	-
Whooping Cough	4	9	23	-	3	44	19	2
Poliomyelitis	1	1	-	-	-	4	-	-
Acute Primary Pneumonia	3	5	3	1	2	2	6	4
Erysipelas	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	17

Diphtheria Immunisation

The total number of children aged under 15 who received a primary course of diphtheria immunisation amounted to 25. This shows a decline in the number immunised during the year, but it is probable that diphtheria immunisation was over-shadowed by the polio vaccination scheme in the minds of parents.

Commencing from 1st April, a combined vaccine for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and whooping cough was issued by the County Health Department and the additional number of children who received the combined vaccine is shown separately below.

Responsibility for the provision of facilities for immunisation and for the maintenance of propaganda now rests with the County Health Department. Facilities are provided at the child welfare centre for the immunisation of children under five and by private practitioners for children of any age.

Leaflets drawing attention to the need for immunisation are distributed by post at the age of eight months and twelve months, and to encourage re-inforcing doses, at the age of four years nine months. The County Health Visitor visits children who have not been immunised.

In addition, advice and reminders are given to parents by the School Medical Officer at the annual medical inspection of schools.

Diphtheria Immunisation Return for the year ended 31st December, 1958.

	Age at date of final injection		Total under 15
	0-4 yrs.	5-14yrs.	
Number of children who completed a course of primary immunisation during the year ended 31st December, 1958	11	Nil	11

Number given re-inforcing injections during the year 25

	Age at date of final injection		Total under 15
	0-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs	
Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough	36	1	37

Number given re-inforcing injections during the year 4

Tuberculosis

One new case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified during the year. The patient was a female aged 51 years, who later left the area of the Urban district to reside in Startforth. There was one death from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Staff - The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time Officer. A grant is made towards his salary by the Ministry of Health.

The Surveyor and Public Health Inspector are whole-time Officers. Part of their salaries are paid by the Urban District Council and part by the Ministries of Health and Transport.

A County Health Visitor resides in the town, and part of her time is allocated to the duties of County School Nurse.

Hospitals - There are no special hospitals for Tuberculosis, Maternity cases or Children, in the area.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, control of the Infectious Disease Hospitals formerly administered by the Auckland, Shildon and Willington Joint Hospital Board, was taken over by the South West Durham Hospital Management Committee. Cases of infectious diseases requiring hospital treatment are sent to one of these hospitals.

The Richardson Memorial Convalescent Home, which was taken over during the war under the Emergency Medical Services Hospitals Scheme, is now used as a Convalescent Holiday Home for patients from hospitals in the County of Durham, North Riding of Yorkshire and the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Ambulance Facilities - I am indebted to the County Medical Officer's Ambulance Department, Durham, for the following statements relating to the working of the Ambulance Service during the year.

Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts are served by two ambulance depots, two ambulances and four driver-attendants.

Summary of work done by vehicles stationed in the Urban and Rural Districts

Journeys	Stretcher Cases	Sitting Cases	Total cases	Mileage
1,147	539	4,418	4,957	65,068

In addition to the above, patients residing in the urban and rural districts are also conveyed by vehicles from neighbouring depots and by the Darlington Ambulance Service, as occasion demands. Records are not maintained in Sanitary district order and information regarding these cases cannot be conveniently supplied.

Nursing Arrangements.

Home Nursing - Under Section 25 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the provision of a Home Nursing Service became the responsibility of the Local Health Authorities as from 5th July, 1948. The agreement concluded with the Durham County Nursing Association, whereby the Durham County Council delegated this aspect of their functions to the Association, ceased to exist on 1st April, 1954, and the County Council took over direct administration from this date.

Direct control was also assumed by the County Council of the arrangements made for the provision of a domiciliary midwife service.

Both services are now available free of charge.

Services are provided for this area by two District Nurse Midwives resident in the town.

Miss L. H. Dodd, 15, Harmire Road, Barnard Castle.	Telephone No. Barnard Castle 2149
Mrs. M. L. Morton, 3, Harmire Road, Barnard Castle.	Telephone No. Barnard Castle 3156.

Midwifery Service

No. of Midwifery and Maternity Cases	61
No. of Hospital patients discharged before the 14th day	16

Home Nursing Service

Cases	Patients	Visits
Medical	85	1,736
Surgical	23	690
Tuberculosis	1	51
	109	2,477
No. of Cases included in the above total who were 65 yrs. of age or over	77	1,980
No. of Cases included in the above total who were under 5 yrs. of age	2	24

There is a small Nursing Home at 32, Bede Road (Proprietress - Hilda Smurthwaite, S.R.N., S.C.M.) chiefly for maternity cases.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

An Infant Welfare Clinic and a School Clinic are held on alternate weeks at the Trinity Methodist Schoolroom, Barnard Castle, under the administration of the County Council.

Area Health Sub-Committee, - The Committee, of which three members of the Council are members, met on four occasions during the year and the County Medical Officer's reports were considered.

I am indebted to your Surveyor, Mr. F. L. White, and to Mr. E. Dixon, Public Health Inspector, for their assistance in compiling this report.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

J. G. PALEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1959.